



## OFFICE OF THE YUMA COUNTY ATTORNEY

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Yuma County Attorney's Office along with the Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center and your local schools are committed to your child's success by ensuring that they remain in school. Missing school weakens your child's confidence and reduces the chance that he or she will reach their goals, move to the next grade or even graduate. Parents and guardians play a vital role in keeping kids in school. Research shows that children who miss school are more likely to use drugs and be involved in criminal behavior. Not only is school attendance important, the **state law requires it**.

Arizona Revised Statutes §15-802 and §15-803 state that every person who has custody of a child between the ages of six and sixteen years shall make sure the child attends school for the full time school is in session. A habitually truant child is a student who has five (5) or more unexcused absences or who has excessive (excused OR unexcused) absences that equal 10% of the school year. A child who is habitually truant or who has excessive absences may be charged in juvenile court and may be adjudicated incorrigible. Consequences could include:

- A term of probation
- Counseling
- \$60 Monthly probation and treatment fees.

A parent who fails to send their child to school could be charged with one or both of the following criminal offenses. Under A.R.S. §15-803 failure to ensure that a child attends school is a class three misdemeanor. Also under A.R.S. §13-3613 a parent can be charged with contributing to the delinquency and dependency of a child, a class 1 misdemeanor. A person convicted under these offenses could face the following consequences:

- A term of Probation
- A fine ranging from \$500.00 up to \$2,500.00
- A jail term of anywhere from 30 days to six (6) months

To avoid these consequences please ensure that you are familiar with your school's attendance policy and work with your child's school to ensure their attendance. Your child's education is extremely important to us and the Yuma County Truancy Program is committed to working with schools and parents to ensure a child's attendance and education.

Thank you,  
Yuma County Attorney's Office  
Juvenile Division